

REMARKS

The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 8, 2005. Claims 39 to 46 are in the application, of which Claims 39 and 43 are independent. Claims 39, 42, 43, and 46 have been amended to improve form and readability. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to update the continuity data, as required by the Office Action.

Claims 25 to 34, which were subject to various rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), have been cancelled without prejudice and without conceding the correctness of the rejections.

Claims 39 to 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, which rejection is respectfully traversed. The Office Action states that the claims recite the term “≈”. In fact, the claims recite the term “=”. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 39 to 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Japan 2001-85716 (JP ‘716). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

According to one feature of the invention, a plurality of sensors is provided around the solar cell string.

The Office Action concedes that this feature is not disclosed in JP ‘716. Yet, the Office Action states that the invention would nevertheless have been obvious. This statement is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that there has been no showing of any motivation to modify JP ‘716 to arrive at the above-discussed feature.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that JP '716 is not prior art by virtue of the filing date of the Japanese application from which the subject application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119. It is Applicants' current intention to file a sworn translation of the Japanese priority application. Accordingly, should the Examiner reach this case before a sworn translation has been made part of the record, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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